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Empire State

ARCHITECT



FIFTH ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

MAY-JUNE 1946

VOLUME VI

NUMBER III

G. I. HOME DILEMMA

DESIGN FOR SAFETY

AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

BUILDING NEWS

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

ARCHITECTS WHO WERE NOT ARCHITECTS

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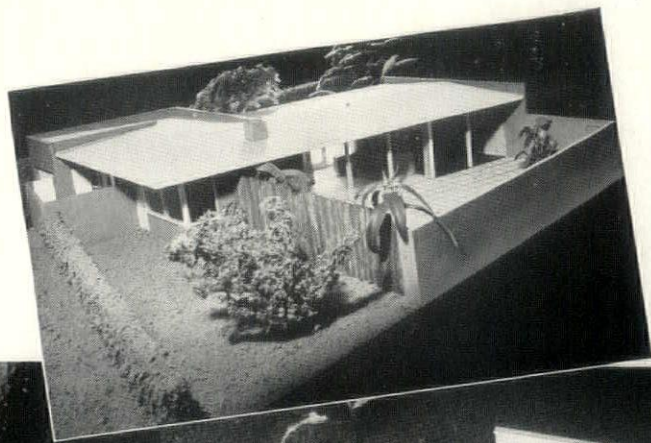


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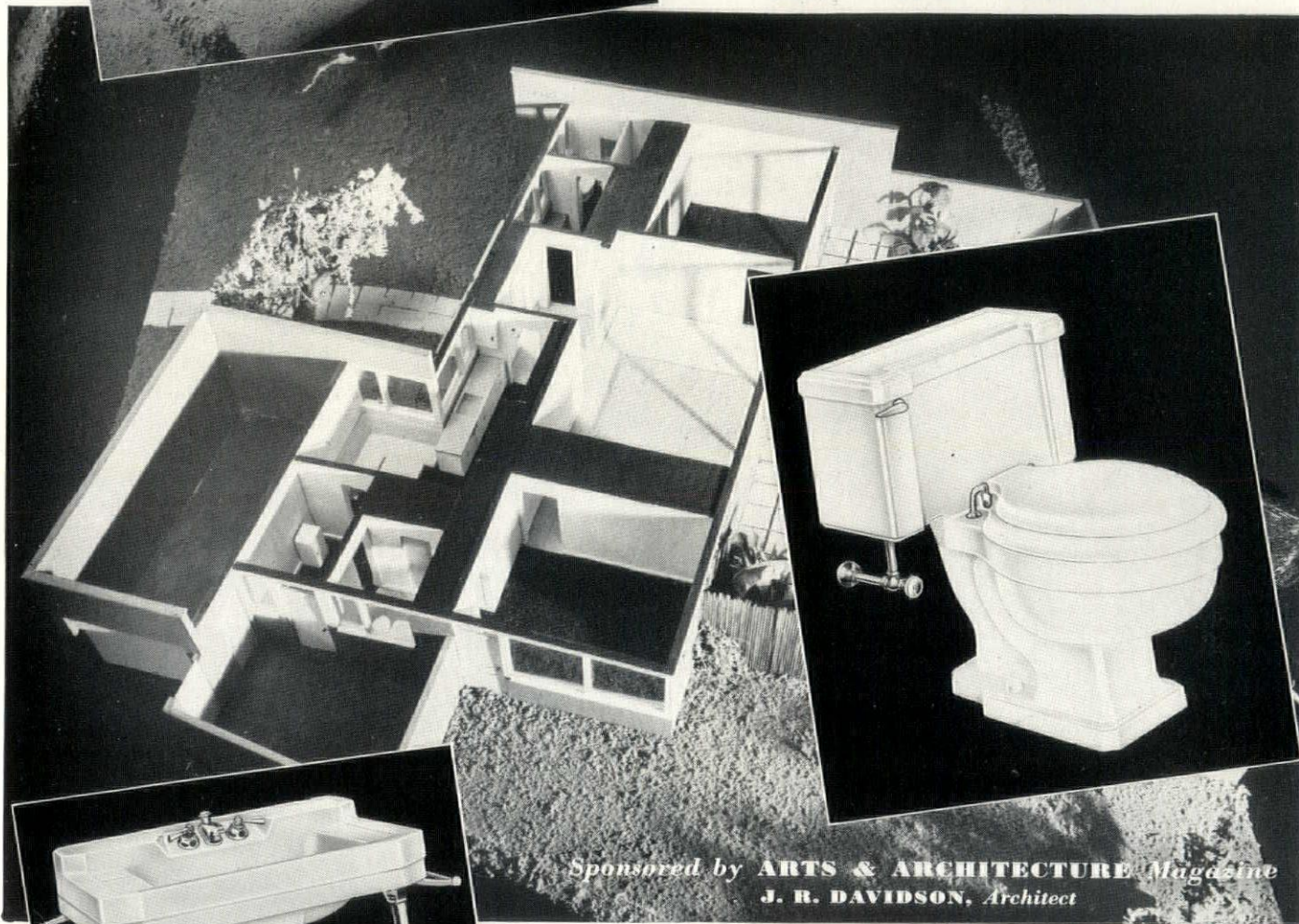
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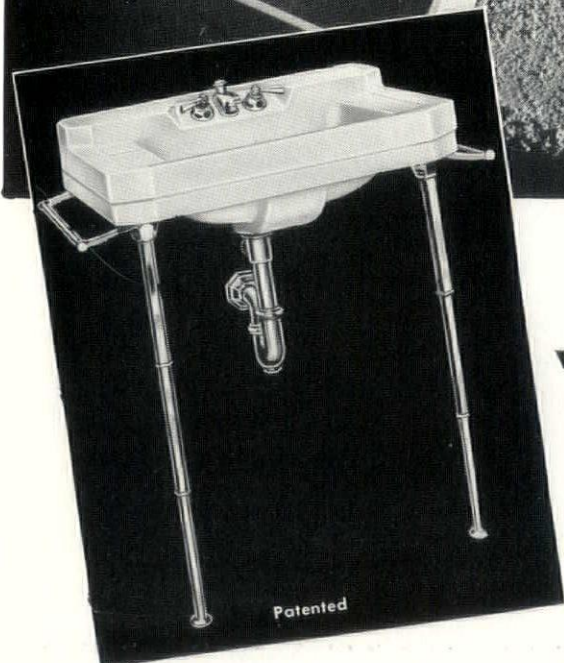


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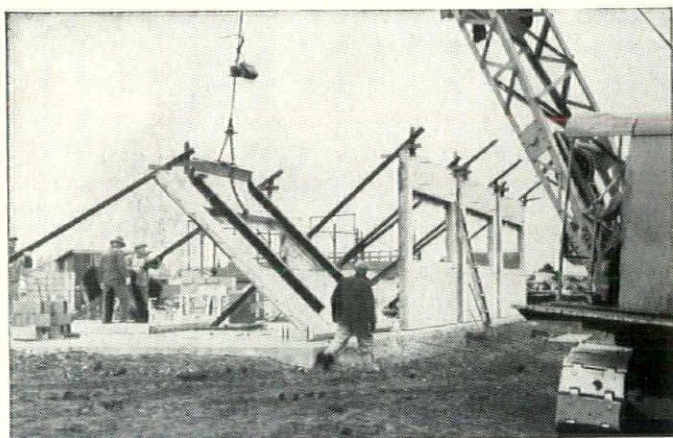
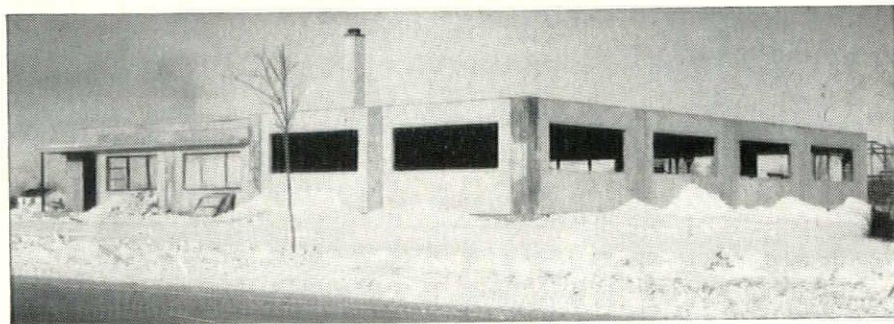


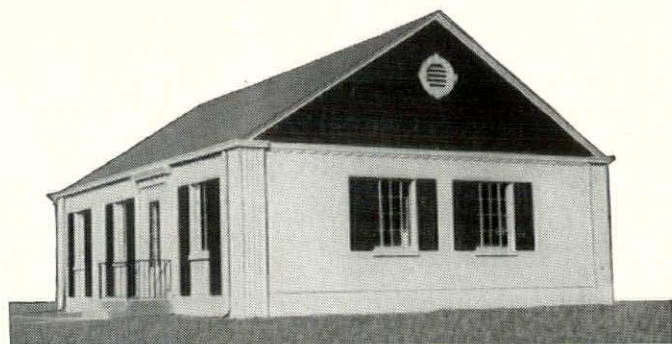
Photo by Myron Hall, St. Cloud Times

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Empire State Architect

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

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Publisher:

Julian L. Kahle. 21 Clarendon Place, Buffalo 9, New York

LETTERS

April 17, 1946.

Mr. Perry Coke Smith,
Chairman, Joint Committee of
Architectural Societies,
101 Park Avenue, New York 17.

My dear Mr. Smith:

I have been requested to give you my ideas as to the architect's obligation and how he violates them when he assigns or farms out his drafting to a commercial drafting firm. I believe as follows:

When a client gives to an architect a commission for preparing plans for his building, he displays that confidence and trust in the architect that a patient does to his doctor. The client gives the architect his work because he believes that the architect is the man to solve the problem and he expects to be served either directly by the architect, or by the latter's exercising proper care and supervision over the preparation of the plans.

If the architect is true to his trust, he will be careful to analyze the problem and solve it himself, or have one of his men, in whom he has great trust, solve it under the architect's supervision.

If the architect is faithful to his trust, he will try to be faithful to his employees by assuring them of work, paying part of the Social Security contribution, paying into the Unemployment Fund to the State and Nation, and pay for Workmen's Compensation. All of the above results in a personal interest in the work given by the client, and a personal interest in the employees working for the architect. Much, if not all of this is lost if the architect, when he is entrusted with a commission, turns the work over to a commercial drafting firm over which he has no control, and over whose employees he has no obligation or responsibility. Neither has he any possibility of exercising his obligation as to supervision over the work.

Just to take a job and farm out the work and then to place one's seal on the plans, puts the architect in the position of a middle-man who sells to one the things he buys from another, at a profit to himself.

If an architect requires assistance and chooses to have a drafting firm send him men who work in the architect's office, and under his supervision, the architect exercises full control.

If the architect has necessity for help and for space, he could arrange with anyone, or with any firm, to let him have both, and the architect may then do his work, or have men do it for him under the architect's supervision. In this case, the architect assumes the obligation toward the employees as to Social Security, Compensation, Unemployment, etc.

In conclusion, and to sum up, I believe that an architect who farms out his work to a commercial drafting firm and then places his seal on the plans, without having had anything to do with the preparation of such plans either directly or in a supervisory capacity, violates the trust his client placed in him, and also the privileges and principles of the ethics of the profession.

Yours very truly,

M. W. DEL GAUDIO.

MWD:lm

Empire State Architect

Becomes FIVE YEARS Old

SO YOU'RE FIVE YEARS OLD

"WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Architects is without a publication of its own, and whereas it is the custom of other state associations to have such a publication; and

"WHEREAS, a current publication will afford the means of continuous intercourse with its membership and contribute to the Association's proper growth, influence and solidarity;

"BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Association of Architects recommend to the Board of Directors that measures be taken to organize and finance such a publication and that the President of the State Association be authorized to complete the necessary details.

"Mr. President, the Resolutions Committee moves the adoption of this resolution.

"A VOICE: I second the motion.

"MR. KIDENEY: You have all heard the resolution, it having been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion?

"A VOICE: No.

"MR. KIDENEY: You want to listen to that carefully: that the President of the State Association be authorized to complete the necessary details. If it passes, I am going to do it.

"A VOICE: How about advertising?

"MR. KIDENEY: Are you ready for the question?

"A VOICE: Question.

"MR. KIDENEY: All those in favor signify by saying aye (Ayes). Opposed (None). Carried."—Minutes of the Third Annual Convention, New York State Association of Architects, Hotel Seneca, Rochester, New York, September 26-28, 1940.

Pursuant to the directive thus adopted by the convention, I then started exploring the possibilities of a publisher for the magazine. Inquiries which I made with a friendly advertising agency produced names of several New York City publishers who might be interested. Personal interviews with these firms disclosed that they were unwilling to attempt the inauguration of a new magazine of this nature. Surprisingly enough, upon my return to Buffalo I discovered that one of them already communicated with a friend of his here who, it developed, had had successful experience with a similar publication for a private club and was interested in supplementing his other work with a venture of this type. After a number of interviews with Julian Kahle, we got to the point where a tentative form of agreement was agreed upon. This involved several conferences in the office of David D. Nash, my attorney, with Mr. Kahle and his legal advisor. When we finally had the terms in what seemed to be a reasonable condition, mimeograph copies were struck off and sent to each of the directors for a letter vote on whether or not the president and secretary should be authorized and directed to execute the agreement with the publisher.

Very briefly the agreement provided for monthly publication of not less than eight pages with the understanding that the publisher was to solicit our advertising and that the Association would be responsible for the editorial content. There was further provision for equitable distribution of the net proceeds.

It was not long before we discovered that the difficulty in procurement of satisfactory editorial matter, as well as the national and world situation, forced a reduction on the part of the manufacturers to advertise, and it became necessary to switch to a bimonthly publication. It is only recently that the war restrictions have been relaxed and it now again be-

comes possible to consider publication each month.

We have seen the magazine grow from its original 8 pages to an occasional number of 24 pages. There has been constant improvement in the quality of the editorial matter, but as one who worked with the magazine in its early days and still has a keen personal interest in its success, I know that the biggest single obstacle to the development of the kind of monthly magazine we all desire is the extreme difficulty in getting the architects who are best qualified to contribute the kind of editorial material in which the members generally are interested. Until such time as funds are available to permit the employment of a full-time executive secretary who will act not only as editor of the magazine, but, for example, as manager of the annual convention, it is going to be necessary for us to rely on the whole-hearted cooperation of our members so that we may as rapidly as possible develop the kind of magazine we all so earnestly desire.

J. W. KIDENEY.

A REPORT REGARDING THE PUBLICATION OF EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT

At the December meeting of the New York State Association of Architects, the directors ordered that Empire State Architect be published on a monthly basis as soon as possible, and the publication committee was directed to develop a method to do so.

Subsequently, it was urged that a lack of co-operation on the part of members of the Association in sending articles on the editor for publication be overcome, as the success of the publication lies in its "reader interest" upon which the amount of advertising obtainable by the publisher is dependent.

A meeting was held in February in the office of Charles R. Ellis, chairman of the Publications Committee, with the editor, the publisher and Mr. Del Gaudio attending. It was decided that the Publications Committee would have jurisdiction of all phases of the magazine, including the fulfillment of terms of the contract between the Association and the publisher. It also was decided to assign various duties in preparing the magazine to those of the membership requested to assist.

The Publications Committee includes: Charles R. Ellis, chairman; David B. Crane, Editor; George A. Boehm, Westchester; George B. Cummings, Binghamton; Sidney L. Strauss, New York City; Henry V. Murphy, Brooklyn. Mr. Ellis has authority to call a meeting when necessary.

For reader interest, Mr. Crane plans presentation of varied articles, and the non-advertising portion of the magazine has been separated into departments to facilitate handling of the copy. The departments and their editors are:

CONSTITUENTS, Cyril T. Tucker. News from each chapter with a brief summary of activities.

COMMUNICATIONS, editor to be selected. Letters to the editor and discussions.

BUILDING NEWS, editor to be selected. Articles from other sources, the Producers' Council, F. W. Dodge, etc.

CARTOONS, editor to be selected.

DESIGN EDITOR, Guy H. Baldwin. Discussion and information relative to design.

EDITORIALS, editor to be selected. Editorials secured for publication, prepared by members of the New York State Association of Architects.

CONTRIBUTIONS, Thomas H. McKaig and others to

be selected. Matters of general interest, not especially limited to professional matters.

LEGISLATION, Maxwell A. Cantor. News of Albany legislation.

STATE ACTIVITIES, Matthew W. Del Gaudio. Reports from the New York State Association of Architects committees, etc.

BIOGRAPHIES, editor to be selected. To publicise deserving architects and their work, when it is believed to be of interest to the profession. Architect of the Month.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES, editor to be selected. News of other state associations.

NEW PRODUCTS, directed by the publisher. Articles on new materials and new use of old materials.

Each of the above editors will be under the jurisdiction of, and responsible to the Publications Committee, and will be required only to collect the information, scan it, and forward it to the Editor.

Where names are listed, the editors have graciously accepted and are at work giving your publication greater reader interest.

COPY WRITER. If the publication is to increase, the re-writing of articles in form or style appropriate for publication becomes a task which cannot be imposed upon our busy members. An experienced re-write will do the necessary preparing at \$40 per issue. He will be under the general jurisdiction of the Publications Committee and particularly under the jurisdiction of the Editor.

MANAGING EDITOR. George Dick Smith, of Buffalo, has accepted this position which entails general managing work in connection with the collection of material. All articles collected by the various members of the editorial staff are to be sent to the Managing Editor. He will submit them to the Editor who will determine the propriety and priority for publication and then give those selected to the copy writer for any necessary re-writing.

The increased size and number of the publication will require a greater number of cuts and it was agreed with Mr. Kahle, the publisher, that he would furnish four new cuts for each issue without cost to us, and that we would pay for all other new cuts exceeding four. We are to furnish photographs and renderings.

Mr. Kahle has been requested to arrange for monthly publication of Empire State Architect starting July 1, 1946. To do so, it becomes necessary that the membership of the New York State Association of Architects co-operate and assist by sending to the Publications Committee of such articles, contributions and new items as will provide greater interest in the magazine.

The list of officers and directors appearing in the Empire State Architect often is incorrect because constituents fail to advise the Publications Committee, or the president or secretary, of changes due to elections and appointments. It is requested that each constituent organization file with the president or secretary a list of its officers, its directors and its members. Any who have filed such information are asked to do so again to avoid any possibility of error.

TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors, at its last meeting on December 8, 1945, instructed the Publications Committee to put into effect, a system whereby the Empire State Architect could be published on a monthly basis, for the purpose of keeping the membership more frequently informed as to architectural happenings in the State, and also to encourage our advertisers to use our magazine to a greater extent than has been the case in the past.

We are all very anxious to have a monthly publication which will contain enough information and sufficient advertising to make it worth while. We would not care to see a very small issue with, perhaps, two or three pages of read-

ing matter and two or three pages of advertising matter, since such an issue would be very uninteresting and the membership and the advertisers, also, would gradually lose interest.

We have requested the membership of the New York State Association of Architects to co-operate with us by sending to us interesting articles on any matter that may seem of interest to the individual who writes the article. We have telephoned and written to individuals and received promises of co-operation. Some promises have been fulfilled and articles have been received, but not in sufficient number as would be required to make our magazine interesting on a monthly basis.

The Board of Directors has issued instructions; the Publications Committee has been operating under these instructions; the publisher is prepared to carry out his part; all that remains is for the membership to do its share so that the entire program can be initiated.

The officers, the Publications Committee, and the publisher, can only do their best and unless the membership assists, the monthly publishing of the magazine must, of necessity, be deferred. We cannot publish a magazine monthly, unless we keep the interest of the reader and unless we give our advertisers sufficient value to justify their confidence in us.

If you want us to carry out the mandate of the Board, we again request your full and complete co-operation. Please send us the necessary articles.

JULIAN KAHLE, Publisher.

I have read the above statement. The publisher is ready, the Publications Committee is working and the officers are doing their best. We ask you again to help us with your articles which should be sent frequently and in time so that our program can get under way. Of course, it must be made quite clear that because of the lack of co-operation on the part of the membership, it will be difficult to start this monthly publication on July 1st, as had been anticipated.

M. W. DEL GAUDIO, President.

IN APPRECIATION

With this issue the Empire State Architect has completed 5 years of continuous publication. These years have been beset with many difficulties. Soon after our first issue appeared, war broke out and as a result one obstacle followed another.

We have come through this difficult period and we owe, a considerable part of the credit, to the support given by our many advertisers. It was largely through their support and loyalty that we were able to carry on.

Although the road ahead seems to have many curves, we feel confident that our publication has been launched on a firm foundation and that it will continue ever increasingly to be an influence in the building field.

The Publications Committee is making every effort possible to improve the reader interest of the Empire State Architect and material of vital importance will be contained in the issues to come.

The New York State Association has determined that an official publication is a vital necessity, therefore, we hope that due consideration will be given to our advertisers by the membership.

We hope our advertisers have considered their support of our publication to have been worthwhile.

In behalf of the members of the State Association, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the advertising cooperation given the E.S.A.

Sincerely yours,

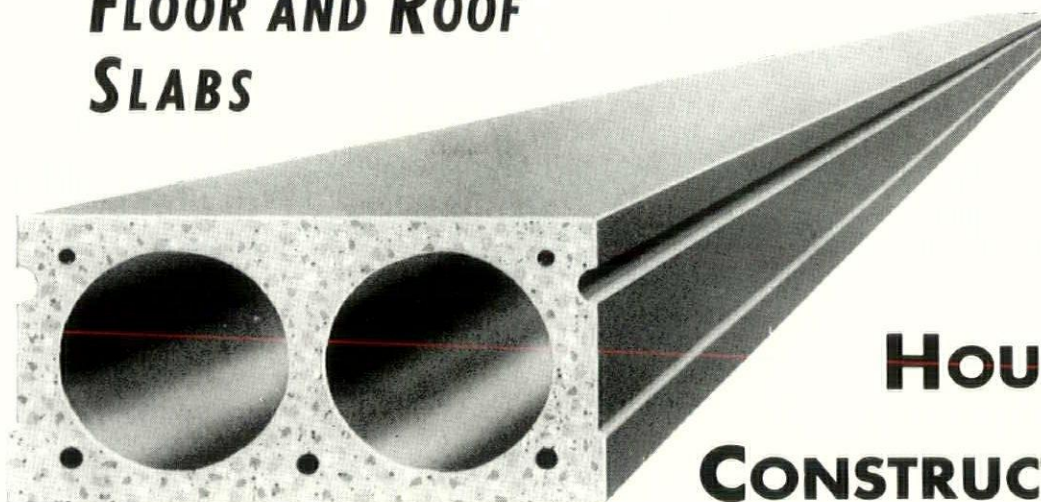
M. W. DEL GAUDIO, President.

JULIAN L. KAHLE, Publisher.

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G.I. HOME DILEMMA

ARCHITECT-VETERAN LOOKS AT COSTS, AND WONDERS

BY MICHAEL ALFANO

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Alfano was a practising architect before the war, serving 23 months in the C.B.I. Theatre. At present he is in the office of M. W. Del Gaudio, Architect, in charge of small homes.)

Almost daily one reads in the newspapers or hears over the radio of the acute shortage which confronts the nation in general, and the veteran in particular.

In Omaha, a newspaper advertisement read, "Big ice box 7' x 17' inside, could be fixed up to live in." A news item in a Chicago newspaper states, "On hundred war veterans and their wives protesting the housing shortage picketed the Chicago City Hall yesterday—in pup tents." And so it goes, while the plight of the G.I. is made a hot political issue, a very important point is lost amid the fanfare, ballyhoo and buckpassing by the landlords, builders and various agencies, and that is, how is the G.I. going to afford to buy his "dream house" when they are available.

Many a sketch was drawn by the G.I. of the little "dream house" he hoped to build after the war, and many a plot was picked out in his imagination, and in many cases it was even bought, only to find upon his return that not withstanding the fact the government was ready to help him realize his dream with the "G.I. Bill of Rights", he finds the excessive cost of building makes it practically impossible for him to build a house. It is a well known fact that the average G.I. in the New York City area earns between thirty-five and sixty dollars per week, and assuming he is

married and has one child, a four room house should meet his minimum requirements. The cheapest this type of house could be erected for today is around \$7,500.00, exclusive of the land. If we were to apply the rule of thumb method of determining the cost of his house, it should not exceed 100 times his weekly salary, or \$6,000.00. So we find that the average G.I. is out of luck, as the carrying charges for the \$7,500.00 are greatly in excess of his weekly income. This would immediately disqualify him for a home purchase loan under the G.I. law, which clearly specifies among other things, that the carrying charges should be reasonable in relation to his income.

It therefore seems to me that the housing problem is two-fold: (1) to provide houses for the veterans, and (2) to provide houses in the cost range which can be afforded by the ex-soldier. How this can be done is beyond my scope of imagination.

Mr. M. W. Del Gaudio, President of the New York State Association of Architects, seemed to have an approach to the solution of the problem, when he stated in a recent speech that all homes erected for veterans should be tax exempted, and mortgages should be non-interest bearing for a period of fifteen years. If something along the lines suggested by Mr. Del Gaudio were put into effect, the carrying charges of the average G.I. house would be reduced by nearly 40% and would bring the house within the earning capacity of the average veteran.

DESIGN for SAFETY

BY MRS. ETHEL M. HENDRIKSEN

Field Instructor, State Dept. of Health,
Public Health Education Division

Falls in the home, particularly on stairways, constitute the major portion of the nation's accidental deaths, and there are more than 2,000 deaths of that nature annually in New York State.

As part of a progressive program to reduce such a large number of unnecessary deaths, architects, builders and prospective home owners have been called upon to aid in the state program by designing for safety and eliminating the "built in" hazards which have claimed the lives of many victims.

As innocent-appearing as a booby trap, these hazards often are as fatally effective. There's the perfectly innocent appearing arrangement of adjoining doors, one for the bathroom and one for a stairway. Imagine the consternation and condition of a sleepy night walker who selected the wrong door.

Other hazards in carelessly planned dwellings are the winding and too steep stairways, doors opening too near the top of stairs, inadequate closet space, and a number of others many home owners unfortunately will discover through experience.

Architects, builders and prospective home owners are being contacted to show how these tragedies can be avoided insofar as the design of the home is concerned. This program was originated in New York State in 1942 by a committee of architects, builders and insurance men, living chiefly in the Syracuse area, and working under the guidance of Prof. D. Kenneth Sargent. The committee is known as the Sub-committee on Safety in Housing of the New York

State Advisory Conference Committee of the State Department of Health.

Various members of the committee have assisted in the preparation of a handbook for architects which is fresh from the press and which may be obtained through the State Department of Health, Division of Public Health Education, 18 Dove St., Albany 6, N. Y.

Safety in the design of the home is only one of the many approaches to home and farm accident prevention, but with the tremendous building program just ahead for this state, it looms as one of the most opportune and important phases of the program.

Two years ago, the National Safety Council employed an architectural engineer for a national campaign against built-in hazards. A feature of the national program is to popularize a new housekeeping closet in place of the old-fashioned broom closet and its inadequate space. The new receptacle has ample room and features a locked compartment for poisonous cleaning supplies.

Its purpose is to eliminate the hazard of stairway and dangerous descent down the diabolic obstacle courses. Many other helpful hints are to be found in a pamphlet, "When You Build Or Remodel," also obtainable from the state.

Architects are urged to assist in the home safety educational campaign through safety committees and speeches before groups of prospective home owners. A large group of architects have helped in this life-saving campaign and tribute is paid to their initiative and vision which have aided in placing New York State prominently in the lead in this effort.

AMONG THE

BY C

Rochester Society

Nearly 200 members of the Industrial Management Council and the Rochester Society of Architects were at the dinner at the Chamber of Commerce, April 1st, to hear Mr. George H. Miehl, president of Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, Inc., talk on the "Industrial Plant of the Future". From the vast experience of the Kahn organization Mr. Miehl was able to draw a very clear picture of the trends in industrial plant design and considerations.

Purves before CNYCAIA

At their quarterly meeting April 6th, at the Seneca Hotel, the Central New York Chapter, gathered this time in Rochester, and had the pleasure and the honor of hearing Major E. R. Purves, the Washington Representative of the Institute, on matters of interest to the profession.

Following is a transcript of his address:

The past few weeks in Washington have been occupied and exacting. The situation was not helped by a visitation from a flu germ which put me out of circulation for a week, to the distress of the work of the office; and to the detriment of carrying on the assignments of the Washington Representative, in an orderly and consecutive fashion.

We are engaged in upwards of twelve activities, to say nothing of the unexpected occurrences. Of principal interest among the activities are the proposed cemetery program of the U. S. Army, the program of the Committee of the Architect and Governmental Relations, the work of the Institute's Committee on Fees, the Veterans Administration construction program and that all-important activity that is being emphasized throughout the country today, the emergency housing program for the veterans.

The magnitude of this program and its effect on the construction industry and on the profession are such as to throw all other efforts and concerns into the background. Even now relegated as corollary interests to the veteran housing program are the Patman Bill and the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill, S.1592.

I will only have time today to touch on two of the topics that I have cited. The veterans housing program and the construction program of the Veterans Administration. At the end of my few remarks, I would welcome any questions or any discussion of other interests and emergencies that confront the profession, and that may be uppermost in your minds.

Before getting into the housing situation, I think you would like to hear about the Veterans Administration program. This is a rather long story and has been touched upon from time to time in the Bulletins which have been issued from my office. I called attention in the last Bulletin to our meeting with General Bradley and to the indication on his part that the hospital construction program would be turned over in large measure to the architects in private practice. I can now enlarge on that theme—bring you up to date and give you information that I think is of significant encouragement.

Shortly after the end of World War I, the VA initiated its original hospital program. Just how this effort eluded the attention of the architects at that time, I do not know. Its genesis was probably relatively modest. A young draftsman, a veteran out of work, got a job with the VA. He was asked to plan the first veterans hospitals as a Civil Service employee. In the course of years he built up quite a department and developed a brand of bureaucratic architecture with all that the term implies. The door was shut tight to the architects and engineers in private practice.

The architectural result of such a philosophy is now only too obvious. The result to the welfare of the hospitalized veterans and taxpayers is equally obvious.

Starting in five or six years ago the Institute made repeated and determined attempts to have the program thrown open to private practitioners. A little over a year ago, through the intercession of Congresswoman Rogers of Mass., the door was opened cautiously a tiny bit. We met with the then Veterans Administrator, General Hines, and his chief assistants in the Construction Division. Timidly and with great hesitation it was indicated to us that the contemplated construction program was of such scope that the Administration itself would not be able to cope with it. Our negotiations with the Administration dragged on and on. There was stalling, procrastination and uncertainty; there were even signs of the familiar run-around.

(Continued on page 16)

You can see from the above that one of the more obscure members of your editorial board has been asked to take charge of this section of your official publication. Only a glance at the roster of members of the Association as printed in the September-October issue is enough to convince you how much of a bottle neck this is liable to be. To attempt to report the doings of that impressive list of able men is likely to prove a task much too lightly assumed. To accomplish it at all will require cooperation of a sort hitherto not easily found among architects.

You have been asked to designate someone in your group who will gather and contribute information concerning your particular unit. The replies received have been heart warming in their promise of cooperation. As soon as the list is complete it will be printed here so that each member can send contributions of interest to the local representative.

So, we could easily dodge all personal responsibility at the start by saying that this section will be what you make it. We know, however, that the printed word bears a responsibility, and that the reading of even a sentence makes a demand on one's time that must be justified. Many of the Chapters and Societies have bulletins of their own which recount current happenings, and these have proven of value. We hope that this section can make a real contribution to the feeling of unity that the profession should have in the State.

Buffalo-Western N. Y. Chapter

Our first contributor is the Buffalo-Western N. Y. Chapter, whose March 16th Bulletin is accompanied by an attractive booklet entitled "Circular of Information on Architectural Services, Rates and Fees". We know that they have been working on this for some time, and a preliminary glance shows it to be a very statesmanlike and straightforward statement of what is too often considered not a matter for open discussion.

Every constituent should have a copy of this booklet for study by their appropriate committee, and we are sure that if you enclose 50c in stamps they will send you one.

Lorimer in Person

We note that Buffalo had a meeting April 1st in cooperation with the local Chapter of the Producers' Council at which Mr. A. Gordon Lorimer spoke on "Modular Coordination".

C.B.'s of the M.H.V.A.S.

Mr. Keefe of Kingston tells us that the Mid-Hudson Valley Architectural Society was badly incapacitated by loss of members to the armed forces. With that kind of fighting spirit the Society should really go places when these men come back.

Notice to Contributors

1. Please send some information, if possible, each month.
2. Mail just before the 1st of each month to C. T. Tucker, 161 Avalon Drive, Rochester, N. Y.
3. Items of interest that strike your attention may also be jotted down on a 1c post card and mailed right in.
4. All of the information you send may not be used; don't let that discourage you, send it in anyway. You understand our space is limited.
5. Photographs and sketches of incidents or people are very acceptable, such as the adjacent one of your editor. This is not a self-portrait. We were not even going to accept it, but several people saw it, recognized it, so what could we do?



INSTITUENTS

AKER

AN ARCHITECTURAL (T)ALE

Walter Taylor, of Syracuse, tells this story of a successful brewer who left a substantial bequest to his church for a new building, but with the stipulation that his architect—the one who had faithfully filled his needs in structures for the manufacture of the product on whose foaming crest he had ridden to fortune—be the one to design the new church.

When the building committee was taken for a tour of the new building, they asked the pastor what type of architecture it was.

"I'm not sure," he replied. "It's either Rumanesque or Boozentine."

"Perhaps," added the committee chairman, "it also might be Coloni—ale."

JOINT MEETING

Through the courtesy of Adolph Martin, Brooklyn Chapter AIA representative of the AIA Department of Technical Service at Washington, comes this information concerning the first joint meeting of the three architectural groups in the Brooklyn and Queens boroughs. Represented were the Brooklyn and Queens Chapters of the Institute and the Brooklyn Society of Architects.

The session was held at the March meeting of the Brooklyn Chapter in that borough. Presiding in the absence of Henry V. Murphy, Brooklyn Chapter president, Vice-President E. James Combaro expressed the desire that all architectural societies of the New York metropolitan area would meet in a strong, unified group, which, he said, would be of better service to the community, the profession and the members.

Highlight of the evening was the lecture on Modular Coordination by A. Gordon Lorimer, chief architect for the New York Department of Public Works. His talk was part of the educational program sponsored by the AIA and The Producers' Council on the new method for reduction of building costs. Mr. Lorimer is using Modular Coordination in designs for the city's vast postwar building program under the direction of John Splain, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, who was a guest. Other guests included: Richard L. Gould, director of the DPW Engineering Division; Raymond Irrera, president of the Queens Chapter; Irving Seelig, president of the Brooklyn Society of Architects, and John F. Kelleher, Queens Superintendent of Buildings.

A scholarly contribution to the meeting was a review by Mr. Splain on architecture, its meaning to civilization, its place in society and on the architect's responsibility to the public.

BROOKLYN SOCIETY

Members of the Brooklyn Society of Architects, their wives and friends gathered at the Granada Hotel, Brooklyn, April 13th to celebrate their long-awaited Victory Dinner.

Among those present were Bernard J. Gillroy, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Housing and Buildings, and Edward P. Leonard, Brooklyn Superintendent. President Irving Seelig welcomed the guests. Sam Malkind, who headed the entertainment committee, was complimented for arranging a show which followed the dinner.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

At the March meeting of the New York Chapter, plans for two contemplated architectural publications were explained and discussed.

Chapter President Harry Coke Smith outlined suggestions for one publication to be entitled, Meet Your Architect. It is intended to provide the layman with information on the function of an architect, his background, experience; how

the architect can help the layman in solving his construction, real estate and maintenance problems; how architects' duties would include the co-ordination of various other professions and skills in carrying out ideas of the prospective home owner, or of owners of property for investment.

Also discussed was the proposed register for architects, to be financed by voluntary loans from members of the chapter, which are to be returned in part at the end of one year when the exact cost of publication has been determined.

The publication would contain an alphabetical list of architects as they practice (either as firms or as individuals). And the following information about each firm member or each individual practitioner would be included:

Name, business address, education, experience, buildings designed, organization of his office, desire and ability to do work of certain types; former associations, including former employment, and any awards won.

The Chapter believes this procedure will carry out the instructions of the Institute relative to the setting up of a register of architects.

POLISH ARCHITECTS VISITING U. S.

Considered among the world's foremost authorities on reconstruction, Helena and Szymon Syrkus, who are in charge of the planning and rebuilding of Warsaw, were guests at the New School for Social Research of the Building Industry Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship Inc.

They appeared at the school in New York on April 20th and presented data on their experiences on the reconstruction of the devastated city, illustrating the underlying and basic community unit for the project with slides.

The meeting was jointly sponsored by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; the American Society of Planners and Architects; the Building Industry Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, and the International Congress of Modern Architects.

Mr. Syrkus is vice-president of the Polish Society of Architects, associate director of the Warsaw Reconstruction Board and an honorary corresponding member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. His wife is architect of the Warsaw Reconstruction Board and general secretary of the Head Council of Warsaw Reconstruction.

NEW FIRM

Three Buffalo Architects have formed a new firm under the name of Fenno, Podd and Reynolds. The members are S. Harold Fenno, Stanley C. Podd and W. Newell Reynolds.

Desideratum

If the contents of this section have a distinct local flavor it is merely because of lack of information evenly from over the state.

And as a night-cap we offer the following little brain teaser, which shouldn't be any harder to figure out than many of the federal price ceiling regulations.

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{x x x} / \text{x x x x x x x} / \text{x 7 x x x} \\ \text{x x x x} \\ \text{x x x} \\ \text{x x x} \\ \text{x x x x} \\ \text{x x x} \\ \text{x x x x} \\ \text{x x x x} \end{array}$$

Merely substitute numbers for the x's so that the problem will work. Simple arithmetic! The first correct solution sent in will be rewarded by an autographed copy of the Empire State Architect, provided you can prove that you haven't seen the problem before.

BUILDING NEWS

MODULAR PRODUCTS

In the interest of promoting the program for modular coordination, the American Institute of Architects has appointed Joe E. Smay, director of the School of Architecture, University of Oklahoma, to arrange for circulation of the Lorimer film "A Scotsman Looks at Modular Co-ordination" to the nation's various schools of architecture.

Widespread use of the film is reported by The Producers' Council which adds that discussion by groups who have viewed it indicates considerable agreement that modular planning is the logical approach to proper construction.

NEW A62 CHAIRMAN

The new chairman for the American Standards Association Project A62 is M. Edwin Green, architectural member of the firm of Lawrie and Green, architects and engineers, Harrisburg, Pa. He was selected by Abraham Levy, co-chairman of the Joint Technical Committee of the American Institute of Architects and The Producers' Council, sponsors of the project.

A past president of the Central Pennsylvania Chapter, Mr. Green also has held several other offices in the chapter and in the state association. He is the secretary of the State Board of Examiners.

MODULAR GUIDE

Expected to be distributed within the next few months, a 250-page A62 Guide For Modular Coordination is in varying stages of preliminary draft and much of it has been reviewed by A. Gordon Lorimer, of New York.

Mr. Lorimer predicts the manual will be "a most valuable educational treatise, not only on modular products, but also on many aspects of building construction which generally are not well understood."

Also assisting in the drafting is John R. Bemis, son of the late Albert Farwell Bemis and a founder of Modular Service Association.

The contents at present include: Basis For Coordination, Modular Masonry, Structural Facing Tile, Custom Masonry, Wood Frame, Windows, Glass Block, Floors, Skeleton Frames—Steel, Skeleton Frames—Concrete, Stairs, Sample Working Drawings, Appendices.

MODULAR REPRINTS AVAILABLE

A limited number of reprints of articles on modular coordination, explaining the technical background and some of the accomplishments of the project, are available without cost and may be obtained by writing Frederick Heath, Jr., Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp., Toledo 1, Ohio. Available are:

Modular Coordination as Related to Building Design—A 16-page explanation for architects issued by the executive committee of the ASA Project A62, October, 1945.

Dimensional Coordination—A 12-page reprint from the August, 1945 Journal of the American Ceramic Society. By H. W. Adams and Prentice Bradley with discussion, Freedom From Fractions, by Frederick Heath, Jr.

Modular Planning—A 2-page reprint from the July-August, 1945 Real Estate Reporter and Building News by A. Gordon Lorimer.

Modular Coordination in Construction—A 4-page reprint from the September 29, 1945 American Lumberman.

U. S. WANTS MULTIPLE UNITS

Because of concern among architects, contractors and the building trades caused by a general impression that the federal emergency housing program will consist predominantly of single units, the F. W. Dodge Corp. has contacted Wilson W. Wyatt, U. S. Housing Expediter and NHA administrator for clarification of the status of multiple housing units in the federal program.

The importance of multiple units was emphasized by Mr. Wyatt in a reply to Thomas S. Holden, Dodge president, who has disclosed its contents in an open letter to the building industry.

Mr. Wyatt's reply states:

"One of the vital requirements of the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program is housing for rent because countless veterans will not want to buy or be in a position to do so. Therefore, multiple dwellings are a most important part of the program and we hope that the industry will do its utmost to produce them. I know that you understand that they must be produced under our program at a price veterans can afford or the whole objective of the program is lost. However, I want to assure you that priorities are issued for the sole purpose of producing homes for veterans and that multiple dwellings have a definite and highly important part in the program."

"The Wyatt program permits dwelling units to be built up to a cost of \$10,000 each," Mr. Holden's letter explains. "(For example, a 20-unit apartment might cost up to \$200,000.) It is probable that the \$80 per unit monthly rent ceiling will determine the top cost of investment projects to be built this year."

"It should be understood, however, that Mr. Wyatt wants as many apartments as possible to rent for \$50 or less per month. This would indicate a preference for garden-type projects similar to those built under Section 608 of Titles VI of the National Housing Act (FHA) during wartime. Many of these projects were of superior quality and were built within the \$1,350 per room cost permitted for FHA insurance; the new Title VI will probably allow a top limit of \$1,500 per room. At the same time, there should be many projects going ahead which will cost more; builders will be able to go over the \$1,500 per room cost, but it is not yet possible to say exactly how high until the National Housing Agency clarifies the matter."

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THAT NECESSARY EVIL— THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER

BY THOMAS H. McKAIG

I wish that owners and their representatives could all be apprized of the fact that minor cracks in the plaster, the terrazzo and at other superficial points in the construction do not mean that anything serious is happening to the building. You know the kind of cracks I refer to,—short cracks running diagonally upward from the corners of the doors in tile or frame partitions, or from a panel box to the adjacent door frame. They are aggravating, and usually occur at the point where they hit you right in the eye, but they are perfectly normal with our modern methods of construction, and altho we can guard against them, they cannot be entirely eliminated.

Probably the most frequent offender is the diagonal crack over the doors, which is usually the result of plaster shrinkage. Any stress causes failure at the point of least resistance, and this is the shallower section over the door head. Moreover, a re-entrant angle, such as the corner over a door frame, invites a crack to start at that point. The hard plaster we get nowadays, together with fast drying characteristics, is more prone to excessive shrinkage than the softer plaster we used to get. If you want to spend a little money to prevent this, you can minimize this cracking by putting a diagonal strip of metal lath upwards from the corner of the door across the point where these cracks usually start.

Floor finish is apt to take a beating from the natural deflection of the structural floor,—negative deflection over the supports. In the case of bar joists, it is only natural that the end of the joists over the beam shall tilt slightly upward over the beam. This deflection from two sides of the beam is quite apt to cause an ugly crack from 6 inches to a foot away from the beam in a tile, terrazzo, or concrete floor finish. A continuous strip of metal lath or mesh, about three feet wide, laid along over the end of the joists will help to eliminate this trouble.

A location where you can expect to get about one hundred percent cracks in schoolhouse terrazzo, is at the point of meeting of two corridors at right angles, particularly in bar joist construction. It is natural for the joist in one direction to have its maximum deflection at the center of its span, at a point where the joists in the opposite direction have an upward deflection at their bearing. I have advised in such cases, the use of two terrazzo strips, one anchored into each side of the joint and free to slide by each other. This is the only thing I have found so far which will prevent this aggravating crack to show up.

I have several other notes along the same line which might be written up to advantage, and perhaps at some future date, I will try to put them down in an intelligible manner. The main idea, as I see it, is to let the owner know that some of these things are bound to occur,—that they are perfectly normal and do not mean that he has any shoddy construction,—and then to do everything possible to eliminate them.

Contributions Editor Gordon Hayes of Buffalo tells this one of Editor Dave Crane in a letter to Managing Editor George Dick Smith.

Answering the phone, Dave was asked by a heavily accented female voice.

"You mak plans?"

"Well, yes. What do you have in mind?"

"Vel leesten," continued the voice. "Ima calling for my husband. Ve gotta lot seexty foot ina von vay anna hundret twanty foot ina udder way. Now dis is vot ve vant. A tavern ona first floor anna bedroom ona upstairs. Leesten! All ve vant to know is how much, and how soon?"

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REPORT of COMMITTEE on HOUSING

NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Committee on Housing of the New York Society of Architects has been directed by President J. T. Briggs to study the National Housing Program as recommended by Mr. Wilson Wyatt, Housing Expediter for the U. S., and the statement by President Harry S. Truman, in relation thereto.

Need

We are fully cognizant of the need of millions of homes for the returning service men and women and their families, and believe that extraordinary efforts are required, if the need is to be even partially filled. These veterans, who served their country in need, deserve special consideration and assistance in securing for their families and themselves the homes in the land for which they have fought, and a grateful nation should be prepared to exercise the same degree of interest and energy in supplying these homes as it exercised in the production of essentials for the successful prosecution of the war.

Financing

We heartily approve of the proposed participation by the government in financing these homes to as much as 90% of their current cost, with liberal provision for amortization. To a family man or woman, security is vital, and the ownership of a home, with financing within his or her means, is absolutely necessary.

Priority for Material

We endorse the principal that veterans' houses should be given priority as to required material, and that the government should impose maximum prices for all items entering into the construction. However, we believe that ceiling prices for materials should be extended to all classes of building construction, and that effective government price controls should be placed over all materials of any kind, to prevent exportation to foreign countries of materials sorely needed for our own needs.

Black Market

A determined effort should be made to stamp out the black market operations in building materials and severe penalties should be imposed upon the dealer who uses these methods to enrich himself by exploiting his fellows in time of great need.

Training

We are in full accord with the principal of training men and women in building trades, to assist in the development of the program and to encourage study, research, and experiments in the building field. We compliment unions that have adopted a liberal policy relative to the training of apprentices and we compliment the members of these unions for their foresight, sympathy and understanding.

Pre-Fabricated Houses

We look with interest upon the function of the prefabricated house. The recommendation made by Mr. Wyatt as to the production and distribution of the prefabricated house is commendable, but we in the metropolitan area first call attention to the fact that local laws and ordinances impose certain restrictions as to frame buildings, which should be considered very seriously.

We call attention to the provision of the New York City Building Code restricting frame buildings to areas outside of fire limits, and also limiting the frontage width of such buildings in relation to the frontage of the lot.

We, also, call attention to the area provisions and limita-

tions in the Zoning Laws, which limit the percentage of lot where houses may cover, varying in extent in the various districts.

Any seller of a pre-fabricated house should be compelled to investigate the property upon which a prospective buyer proposes to erect his home to determine the legality for such erections before taking any money from the buyer, and the prospective buyer should be warned against the purchase of such a house if conditions do not permit of the legal erection thereof on his property.

Every seller of a pre-fabricated house should be compelled to state clearly and without equivocation, just what the purchase price of the house includes. If foundations, plumbing, heating, painting and electric installation are not included, the buyer should be informed as to the cost of these items, so that he can determine the ultimate cost to him of a home ready to move into.

Often, the advertised price of the prefabricated house is most attractive so that the buyer is intrigued into parting with his money, only to find out later that the cost of all the items not included in his original purchase, but necessary to complete his home, are beyond his financial reach.

The pre-fabricated house seller should also study climatic conditions and inform the buyer as to the advisability or otherwise of a cellar, full foundation, attic, etc.

Effort

If a determined effort is made by the National, State and City governments to solve the housing problem, and especially, if the exploitation of the veteran by the unscrupulous is made difficult or subject to severe penalties, we feel that the solution of the problem will be within sight.

In memory of those men and women who gave their lives that we might live, and in appreciation to those others who served their country, we pledge ourselves to assist in every manner within our control, in carrying out the program. We are willing to subordinate personal and professional interest in the furtherance of this pledge.

We ask only that the National, State and Municipal government do their part in making available materials and funds for the carrying on of the program, and also, that proper safeguards be set up by these agencies to prevent the exploitation of our servicemen and women.

M. W. DEL GAUDIO,
Committee on Housing
New York Society of Architects.

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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Report No. 5, Page 7

The legislature adjourned on March 26th, 1946. The final few days of the session were as hectic as usual, with the gavel falling at 2:30 A.M. Many bills were introduced by both parties for the purpose of creating campaign issues in the elections to be held this fall. There were 2437 Senate bills and 2774 Assembly bills. They covered every conceivable subject. The ones that engaged our attention were those in connection with Housing, Multiple Dwellings, Education, Labor, Civil Service, Practise of Law, Banking, Liens, Public Buildings, Tax exemptions, etc. The chairman of your legislative committee examined more than 250 bills to determine whether they were favorable or detrimental to the building industry in which the architect has so large a stake.

Whenever action was required, each affiliate co-operated with your chairman to the fullest extent, so that the final results have been eminently satisfactory. To sum up, all bills which we opposed failed of passage, and most of those we favored were passed.

The following bills, creating *Housing Authorities*, are listed for the attention of our state members:

Assembly Int. #436 for Albany—Signed by the Governor.
Senate Int. #93 for Binghamton—Signed by the Governor.
Assembly Int. #1437 for Corning—Signed by the Governor.
Assembly Int. #231 for Oswego—Signed by the Governor.
Assembly Int. #1558 for Amsterdam—Now with the Governor.

Assembly Int. #2051 for Fulton—Now with the Governor.
Assembly Int. #1919 for Ithaca—Now with the Governor.
Assembly Int. #1313 for North Hempstead—Now with the Governor.

The following bills, amending the Multiple Dwelling Law are listed for the attention of our metropolitan members. They are now with the Governor.

Assembly Int. #2059—Cleanliness and rat-proofing.
Assembly Int. #2619—Construction and rat-proofing.
Assembly Int. #1063—Brick converted dwellings.
Assembly Int. #1064—Frame converted dwellings.
Assembly Int. #603—Tax exemptions.
Assembly Int. #2625—Cooking space.
Assembly Int. #2603—Living rooms—fire tower
Assembly Int. #2618—Lodging houses.
Assembly Int. #2620—Lodging houses.
Assembly Int. #2707—Re-codify generally.
Senate Int. #2289—Cooking space not living room.
Senate Int. #2028—Living space in tower.

This ends the work of the legislative committee for 1946.

Respectfully submitted,
M. A. CANTOR, *Chairman.*

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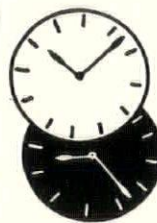
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ARCHITECTS WHO WERE NOT ARCHITECTS BY GUY H. BALDWIN

Many buildings long considered among the world's finest were designed by men originally trained in some other work, whose minds turned to architecture when already fully developed.

Painter, dramatist, military engineer . . . even artisan of a scheme for an airplane and a submarine . . . these were some of the talents of Leonardo da Vinci, who, although no edifice bears his name, submitted designs for the replanning of Milan to avoid recurrent pestilence, for the Castello of Ludovico, and models and plans, which were not used, for the Cathedral of Milan.

The counterpart of the draftsman's story of the great architect who rarely came into the drafting room might be found in the story of Pierre Lescot (whom one biographer cast as "a clever courtier and business manager") who employed Jean Goujon, the sculptor, to design all his architecture. These two and, among others, Claude Perrault, a physician, designed perhaps the finest monument of the French Renaissance, The Louvre. If it possible to suggest such an idea to an alert and impatient profession, this building took form in a manner in keeping with its times over a period of 334 years and at the hands of many architects—yet the whole is in harmony with itself and with the great city in which it is preserved.

In England, Sir Christopher Wren started a most ambitious architectural career as a professor of astronomy and mathematics at Oxford, while Sir John Vanbrugh, who designed Winston Churchill's ancestral home, started as a dramatist.

In our own United States, the Capitol in Washington was designed by a physician who helped build a steamboat twenty years before, Robert Fulton's "Clermont". Five years after receiving his M.D. from Aberdeen University, Dr. William Thornton won a competition for a building for the Library Company of Philadelphia which was sufficiently well planned to serve ninety years in a pre-atomic era. Subsequently, his plans for the national Capitol were hurriedly revised after a glimpse at Hallet's plans, and since Thornton was not a builder Hallet was hired as supervisor of construction to the mutual irritation of both. From then until after the Civil War, work on the Capitol proceeded under the guidance of whoever was the favorite architect of the current President, one of these being Jefferson, who was something of an architect in his own right. Even today Senator Bilbo has important recommendations for altering it after the Mississippi State Capitol and the national Capitol in Havana.

And of course most architects are familiar with Dr. Thornton's Octagon, the national headquarters of the American Institute of Architects.

MAJOR E. R. PURVES (Continued)

Then suddenly the storm broke in Congress. The scandalous condition rampant in the veterans hospitals would no longer be hidden under the bureaucratic cloak. A change of administrators was made. General Omar Bradley took over. He came, determined to clean house and to make of the Administration a fitting agency for the veterans of both world wars. The task confronting the General was formidable. He set to work with his well known skill and fearlessness. The immediate job was the cleaning up of the medical section of the VA. To assist in this initial endeavor General Hawley was called in. General Bradley also engaged the consultant services of outstanding men in the medical profession. Their unfavorable reaction to conditions existing at veterans facilities was immediate and emphatic.

When they realized that the VA was proposing to continue the planning and erection of facilities along unenlightened lines, they were appalled. General Hawley brought with him a Lt. Colonel Brown, who in civilian life, I believe, had been the superintendent of one of our more important hospitals. Colonel Brown thoroughly knew hospital planning and what is more important he understood and appreciated architectural service. It was evident to the VA that the best advice and service that the architectural profession had to offer must be engaged immediately. Hurried meetings were called by General Hawley and Colonel Brown. It was decided that the VA needed not only to have consultant doctors, but consultant architects. A consultant group was appointed by the VA in cooperation with the A.I.A. The obvious result of the thought and recommendations of all concerned with the current conditions was the proposal of turning over the planning of the construction program to architects in private practice.

General Bradley called us in and announced this new policy to us. He subsequently and very wisely made a drastic change in policy insofar as his own construction division was concerned. I will not attempt to go into the details of this but suffice to say that the execution of the construction program has been delegated to the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army. So the procedure now is that the Surgeon General's Office of the VA, aided by the consultant architects, will develop criteria and standards for veterans facilities and hospitals. These standards and criteria will be turned over to the Corps of Engineers through the new Construction Division of the VA. The Corps of Engineers will engage the architect and will see to the construction of the projects. An Architect-Engineer form of contract will be used.

Architects desiring consideration for engaging in the program are advised to file their credentials with the District Engineer, the Division Engineer and with the Chief of Engineers in Washington. The Corps of Engineers is interested in knowing something about the architect's experience, especially recent experience in hospital design and construction. They want to know something of the organization of the Office and the capabilities of the key men and finally of extreme importance, the availability of the architect to carry out the work properly and expeditiously.

It is a long program. The peak of construction may not be reached for a matter of some eight to ten years. It is very gratifying to see, not only the consideration, but actually the demand by the VA, that the architect in private practice be given a leading role in helping to achieve the objectives of the program.

Now I am sure of greater interest and concern to all of you is the Veteran's Emergency Housing Program. Again, if you can bear with me, I will go in for the bit of history. Incidentally, rather complete reference was made to this program in the last number of my Bulletin.

The rumblings of the veterans' emergency housing started months ago. It was the considered opinion of the Construction Industry last summer that the problem of caring for the housing shortage could best be solved by private initiative in the free enterprise manner and even today we are not convinced that this is not the wiser way. Last summer L41 was removed. The immediate result was unfortunate. Chiefly, I think, because although the restrictions on construction were rescinded, price controls were not, and there was no real incentive for producers to produce the building materials. Nor, in fact, is there any incentive today. Things began to come to a head in December and a labor-management meeting on housing was called by Blandford and Small at the request of President Truman.

This meeting lasted for two days and there I found myself curiously enough representing the United States Chamber of Commerce and not the profession of architecture. In fact no professional representatives were invited to the meeting. I do not think the meeting accomplished anything. There was no reconciliation of the diametrically opposed points of view of the government and of private industry. The government stuck to its thinking that the solution of this problem and all problems lies in restrictions, forms and application blanks. Representatives of industry and private enterprise were convinced and are still convinced that objectives could only be obtained by stimulating production and by encouraging cooperation.

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When it came to a discussion of the public relations angle, I arose and made some remarks on the philosophy of veterans and on the innocence of veterans in general of implications and ramifications of planned economy. As a veteran of two wars I spoke with some knowledge. I was startled and flattered a month or so ago to hear Mr. Wyatt in addressing the Washington Building Congress, open his talk by repeating my remarks almost verbatim, though I must say that he cast them in a somewhat different light and for a different purpose. This may have been pure coincidence.

Even at the time of that conference in December, President Truman had decided to appoint Mr. Wyatt to the office of Housing Expediter, a new and untried assignment for Mr. Wyatt and for the country. Mr. Wyatt arrived in Washington the first of the year and set about holding conferences with various representative elements of the construction industry. I sat in one of these where we conferred with him for two and a half hours. At that time we had no inkling of what lay in the back of his mind and possibly he did not either for we have come to know that on January 11, Chester Bowles, head of the O.P.A., wrote Mr. Wyatt a long letter in which he outlined in complete detail his proposed emergency housing program and in which he called Wyatt's attention to the vulnerable condition of the construction industry—the implication being that the industry was too weak and disorganized to meet a challenge—and, furthermore, warned Mr. Wyatt that should the administration fail to achieve a housing program for the veterans then the administration might conceivably go down to defeat in the coming elections.

Mr. Wyatt's letter to President Truman outlining his program, which was in substance and in detail Mr. Bowles' comprehensive suggestion, was written to President Truman on February 7. This letter received wide-spread publicity and it was based on that letter that the Executive Committee of the Institute issued its statement to Mr. Wyatt and to the President. You have all read that statement in our Bulletin. I think that the attitude of the Executive Committee was excellent and I think that we have no reason to deviate from the policy and stand taken by the Executive Committee.

Let me make one thing very clear! No part of the construction industry (and this applies particularly to the American Institute of Architects) is unsympathetic to the objectives of the so-called Wyatt program. Not a single voice has ever been raised in opposition to producing houses cheaply, quickly and well for the veterans. We do, however, disagree here and there with the method of achieving those objectives and we are firmly of the opinion that in achieving that objective the national economy and welfare of the country must not be jeopardized.

A month or so ago there came the interlude of the controversy

on the Patman Bill. Possibly you followed the debate in the press. The passage of the Patman Bill and the proposed amendments was eagerly sought by Messrs. Wyatt and Bolles. It became an administration "must". Fortunately not all of Congress is so easily persuaded and fortunately the construction industry was alert to the situation. We fought the Patman Bill and we fought it successfully in the House. In the form that it was passed by the House, we are in complete sympathy with it. We endorse it. We do not know what treatment it will receive in the Senate. Two questionable amendments have been re-inserted by the Senate Committee; namely the subsidies and the ceiling prices on existing houses. We see absolutely no reason why any manufacturer of prefabricated housing need be subsidized in our economy. And we are firmly of the opinion that such subsidy, as was proposed, is nothing but concealed inflation.

There have, as you can well imagine, been a great many meetings among the representatives of the construction industry. We are in almost constant session. Prior to the issuance of the order itself we had a meeting with the government representatives entrusted with the drafting of the restrictive construction order. Although the meeting lasted for nearly three hours and was conducted with the utmost courtesy and consideration, we felt that we arrived nowhere. The government officials entrusted with the drafting of the order appeared to be, none of them, men who had had any practical experience in the great outside world. And we were impressed with the difficulty of dealing with theorists. Possibly they may be right, but I am inclined to lend a sympathetic ear to the man of experience.

It, furthermore, struck me that the housing of the veterans is not the sole and possibly not the prime objective of the government. There is more than a suspicion that the government seeks to so drastically regulate and direct the construction industry that it will be able to exercise complete control of all of us. And this housing program is simply one of the entrances it has sought.

There is also somewhere in the background an interesting struggle taking place between the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. Naturally the C.I.O. is in favor of the Wyatt program and the restrictive order and naturally the A.F. of L. view it with justified alarm.

Now the order is out. I have a copy of it here. A copy was sent to the President of your Chapter and within a few days we hope to have copies in the hands of all of you. Let me say this and say it emphatically: we have the order. We are going to operate under it. We are going to live under it. It is up to us, as an important element of the construction industry, to make the order work satisfactorily. As I have said before, we are agreed with the government on the objectives of the program.

It is impossible to predict at this time whether the order will work satisfactorily or not. Time alone will tell. And I am afraid that that time may be somewhat far distant. Do not forget that there is an important election coming up next November and that the veteran vote will be the most sought after prize that the country has to offer to the elective authorities.

We do not know whether the order will be administered very severely and to the letter or whether it will be administered leniently—I doubt if those entrusted with executing the order know themselves. Nor do we know what the true demand for houses is on the part of the veterans. We have reason to believe that at the present time only 10% of the discharges are demanding houses and of those only 10% have indicated their immediate and actual need now.

As you all now, local advisory committees will be set up. These committees will be composed of outstanding citizens. It has been suggested at the Octagon and suggested by the Presidents of some of the Chapters that the A.I.A. and its Chapters should see to it that architects are members of those committees I certainly subscribe to this suggestion, however, with a word of warning.

We have asked C.P.A. Director Small to clarify the status of the committee members with respect to the anti-trust laws. This calls for a clearance of the status by the Department of Justice. It is within the realm of possibility that an aggrieved person might well sue the members of an advisory committee on the grounds of restraint of trade. Should the members of the committee not enjoy governmental immunity then those members might find themselves in a very unfortunate predicament indeed.

I have talked to you at a little length on two important items with which we are immediately concerned. I would like to say before closing that in general the profession is more happily recognized today than it ever has been before. We find governmental agencies turning to us for advice and assistance. We even now find the U.N.O. authorities turning to us. Of course, the efforts of the American Institute of Architects have been instrumental in achieving this happy state of affairs but the most important factor in insuring good will for the profession is the individual architect himself. Every time one of you does an important job and does it well the entire cause of the profession is advanced. A slipshod job, incomplete, insincere or faulty service does us infinite harm. That the profession enjoys its present prestige is obviously due to the excellence of the service that the individual members have rendered.

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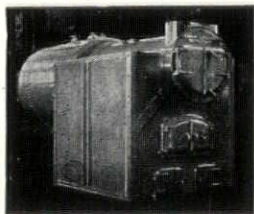
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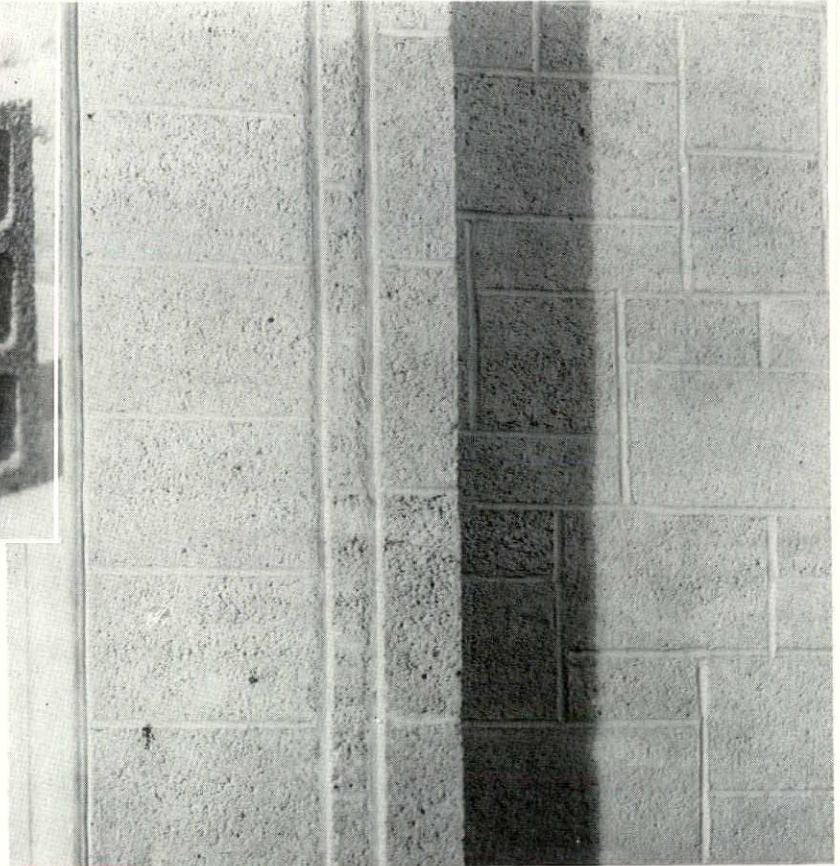
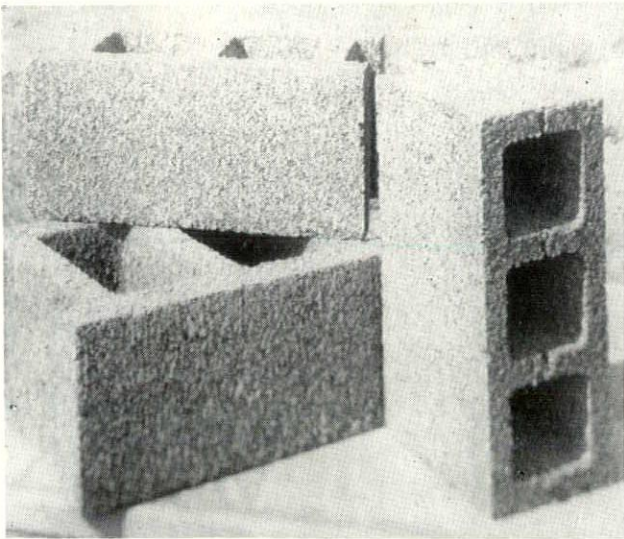
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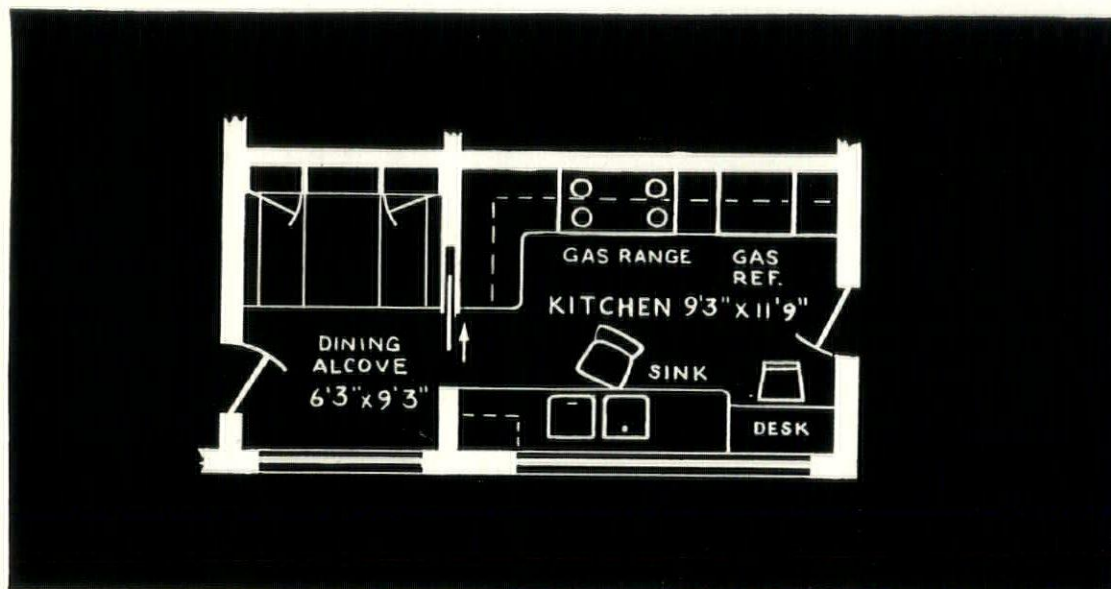
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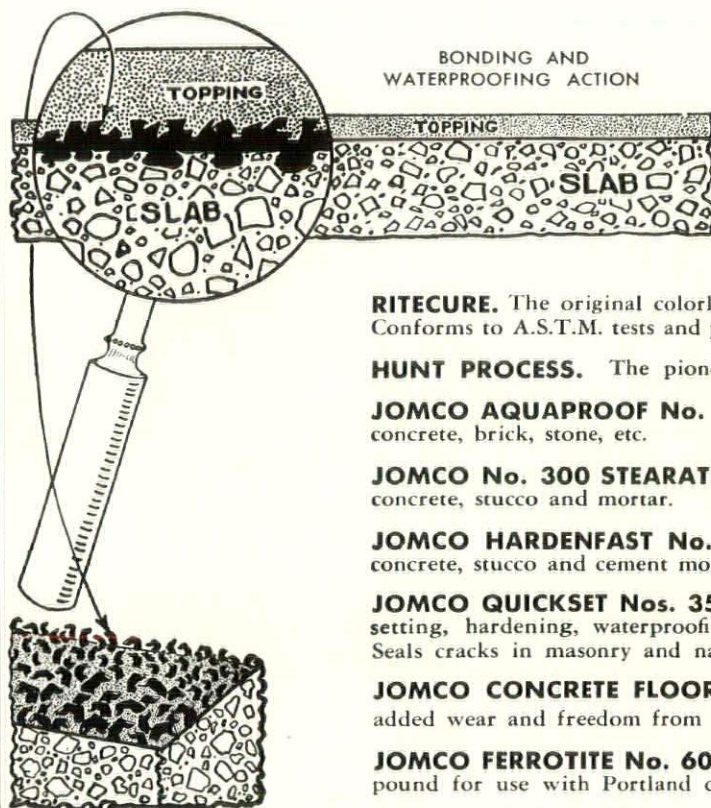
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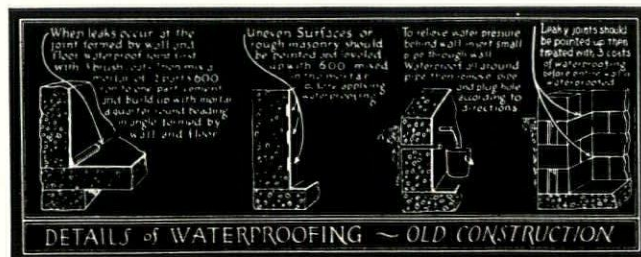
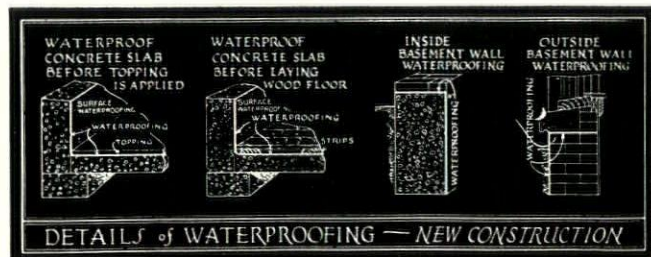
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